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21 December 1962

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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DAILY BRIEF

Cuba: There are further straws in the wind suggesting that something may be brewing within the Cuban leadership, possibly a major political decision.

On 17 December, the Havana newspaper Revolucion carried the full text of the 15 December Peiping's People's Daily editorial, the most explicitly anti-Soviet statement yet published in Communist China. In the Sino-Soviet bloc, only North Korean and Albanian papers have reprinted the Chinese statement. It almost certainly could not have been reprinted in Havana without Fidel Castro's approval. A Western observer in Havana has commented that Revolucion reflected Castro's views more faithfully during the recent crisis than any other Havana daily.

Castro himself has been pointedly absent from public functions since Mikoyan's departure on 25 November. He has not been out of the limelight for so long a period since last February and March during the maneuvering that led up to the purge of veteran Communist Anibal Escalante, and has not made a public speech since 1 November.

On 19 December, Che Guevara replaced Fidel Castro on short notice and without explanation as the principal speaker at a sugar workers' plenum. For three weeks Castro had been billed as the main attraction. Instead, according to Havana radio, Castro held one of his increasingly frequent informal meetings with university students, presumably discussing ideological matters.

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USSR-Congo: Soviet UN representatives have told UN Secretary General U Thant that if US aid to the UN Congo operation is accepted, Soviet military aid should also be accepted. By this tactic the USSR is apparently attempting to block UN acceptance of US military assistance.

Soviet propaganda has called the forthcoming US military mission to the Congo an attempt to strengthen American influence in that country and an effort to assure a political solution favorable to US interests.

Moscow has consistently opposed the UN Congo operation. The USSR probably hopes that continued UN failure to end the Katanga secession will lead to replacement of the pro-West Adoula government by a radical regime more willing to terminate the UN operation and to rely on Soviet military and economic assistance to unify the country.

The Adoula government is planning to open a diplomatic mission in Moscow early next year. The USSR re-established its embassy in Leopoldville shortly after the formation of the Adoula government, but this will be the first Congolese mission in Moscow. Adoula has probably been under pressure from Moscow to establish a mission. He also probably hopes to mollify his opponents, and at the same time to impress upon the US the urgency of his need for help.

Finland-USSR: Finland has decided to go through with the purchase of modern Soviet jet fighter aircraft equipped with weapons proscribed by the 1947 peace treaty.

All the signatories to the treaty, except Canada, have agreed to reinterpret it so that Finland may have such weapons.

Since 1960 Finland has arranged to purchase some Soviet military equipment.

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*Peru: Three Cuban nationals have been identified, [redacted]

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[redacted] among the leaders of the 17 December strike violence at the US-owned Cerro de Pasco mine in La Oroya.

One of the three Cubans has also been active in promoting the seizure of ranchland in the Peruvian highlands by Andean Indians. Communist-led Indians were said to have planned to synchronize a major new seizure campaign with the violence against Cerro de Pasco. No such incidents have been reported yet.

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NOTES

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Sudan: A cabinet reshuffle announced by President Abboud on 20 December is unlikely to produce any significant changes in government policy. The reshuffle--largely a matter of reassigning portfolios--appears to be primarily an effort to improve efficiency. Two civilians were added to the predominantly military body, but this is unlikely to satisfy opposition demands for much greater civilian participation in the government.

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